

**AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO IMPROVE CALIFORNIA'S SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA AND WATER SUPPLY**

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6014) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to improve California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and water supply, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6014

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. CALIFORNIA DELTA SUBVENTION.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall deposit within 30 days of receipt, all funds under this Act into the Fund established by Cal. Water Code section 12300(a), to be used for project reimbursement under Cal. Water Code section 12300(b)(1), as in effect before July 1, 2006.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The Bureau of Reclamation may use not more than 1 percent of appropriated funds to cover administrative and overhead costs.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012. Any amounts expended under this subsection shall be considered to be non-reimbursable Federal expenditures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 6014, sponsored by Resources Committee Chairman RICHARD POMBO, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to assist in protecting and improving California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The delta is one of the most flood-prone areas in the world and is currently protected by a series of deteriorating 80-year earthen levees. After Hurricane Katrina, we all know the devastating effects of levee failures. The funding in this bill helps prevent future failures that could have far-reaching impacts on the entire State of California. It is simply an ounce of prevention for a pound of cure.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I urge support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I too support this very worthy legislation here tonight. I encourage its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6014, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING ASSISTANCE ACT**

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1711) to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1711

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act".

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey.

(2) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of New Mexico.

**SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN ASSISTANCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the request of the Governor of the State and subject to subsections (b) through (f), the Secretary shall—

(1) provide to the State technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans;

(2) conduct water resources mapping in the State; and

(3) conduct a comprehensive study of groundwater resources (including potable, brackish, and saline water resources) in the State to assess the quantity, quality, and interaction of groundwater and surface water resources.

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Technical assistance provided under subsection (a) may include—

(1) acquisition of hydrologic data, groundwater characterization, database development, and data distribution;

(2) expansion of climate, surface water, and groundwater monitoring networks;

(3) assessment of existing water resources, surface water storage, and groundwater storage potential;

(4) numerical analysis and modeling necessary to provide an integrated understanding of water resources and water management options;

(5) participation in State planning forums and planning groups;

(6) coordination of Federal water management planning efforts;

(7) technical review of data, models, planning scenarios, and water plans developed by the State; and

(8) provision of scientific and technical specialists to support State and local activities.

(c) **ALLOCATION.**—In providing grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, allocate—

(1) \$5,000,000 to develop hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for the

New Mexico Rio Grande main stem sections and Rios Pueblo de Taos and Hondo, Rios Nambé, Pojoaque and Tesesque, Rio Chama, and Lower Rio Grande tributaries;

(2) \$1,500,000 to complete the hydrographic survey development of hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for the San Juan River and tributaries;

(3) \$1,000,000 to complete the hydrographic survey development of hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for Southwest New Mexico, including the Animas Basin, the Gila River, and tributaries;

(4) \$4,500,000 for statewide digital orthophotography mapping; and

(5) such sums as are necessary to carry out additional projects consistent with subsection (b).

(d) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The non-Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out using a grant provided under subsection (a) shall be 50 percent.

(2) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share under paragraph (1) may be in the form of any in-kind services that the Secretary determines would contribute substantially toward the conduct and completion of the activity assisted.

(e) **NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS.**—Any assistance or grants provided to the State under this Act shall be made on a non-reimbursable basis.

(f) **AUTHORIZED TRANSFERS.**—On request of the State, the Secretary shall directly transfer to 1 or more Federal agencies any amounts made available to the State to carry out this Act.

**SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

**SEC. 5. SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.**

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1711, sponsored by Congresswoman HEATHER WILSON, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to assist the State of New Mexico in developing comprehensive water plans.

New Mexico is experiencing record drought, and limited Federal assistance will help provide a water-use roadmap to overcome this and future droughts. This legislation specifically authorizes water resources mapping assistance in the State and allows for a comprehensive study of New Mexico's groundwater resources to assess the quantity and quality of the groundwater. Ultimately, the State and local entities will make the water-use decisions, but this bill helps provide the scientific data needed to make such decisions.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, we have no objections in regards to this legislation. We encourage its adoption and passage.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act (H.R. 1711).

The New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act (H.R. 1711) would assist the state of New Mexico with the development of comprehensive state water plans that will help the state more effectively manage our most precious natural resource—water.

I introduced the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act on April 19, 2005 and Senator DOMENICI and Senator BINGAMAN introduced companion legislation in the Senate on January 26, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to: (1) provide to New Mexico technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans; (2) conduct water resources mapping in New Mexico; and (3) conduct comprehensive studies of groundwater resources in New Mexico to assess the quantity, quality, and interaction of groundwater and surface water resources.

The legislation also directs the Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, to allocate: (1) \$5 million to develop hydrologic models of eight New Mexico river systems; (2) \$2.5 million to complete the hydrologic models for the San Juan River and other Southwest New Mexico river systems; and (3) \$4.5 million for statewide digital orthophotography mapping. The federal cost share shall be on a 50–50 match basis, and all federal funds are to be non-reimbursable.

Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico was the home to many indigenous southwestern peoples from A.D. 850 to 1250. Unfortunately, the Chacoans ingenuity in storing and channeling water was not enough to save them from a 50-year drought that began in 1130. The Chacoan pueblo people left Chaco Canyon in stages and established a string of pueblos along the Rio Grande and a few other desert rivers.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and state conservancy and irrigation districts flood control and reclamation projects along New Mexico's river systems that store water during wet years for use during dry years help ensure that New Mexico's current population will not have to relocate during extended periods of drought—like the Chacoans were forced to do more than eight centuries ago.

However, like much of the West, the demands on New Mexico's ground and fresh water resources are immense and growing. For example, Mr. Speaker, the First Congressional District of New Mexico is bisected by the Rio Grande. The flows of the Middle Rio Grande serve the biggest city in New Mexico, Albuquerque, many smaller cities, six Indian pueblos, and a network of agriculture users. Many of these farmers irrigate the same land as their Spanish ancestors did over 4 centuries ago. In addition there is the endangered silvery minnow, which, under a 2003 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion, requires 180 miles of continuous minimum river flow in the Middle Rio Grande.

New Mexico has an average allotment of 393,000 acre-feet of Rio Grande water under the 1938 interstate compact that apportions the Rio Grande between Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. These demands have stretched this allotment to the limit. Further complicating the picture is the fact that Article VII of the Rio Grande Compact severely restricts New Mexico's ability to store native water up stream at Heron, Abiquiu, El Vado, or Cochiti Reservoir.

Thus far, New Mexico's water managers have been able to stretch New Mexico limited water supplies to meet the expanding demands of New Mexico cities, industries, Indian pueblos, and endangered species, without widespread displacement of its historical agriculture users. By providing federal water planning assistance to New Mexico's water managers this important legislation will help stretch New Mexico's limited water resources; and, as a result, will help prevent waters conflict in New Mexico well into the future.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman POMBO, Subcommittee Chairman RADANOVICH, and their staffs for working so hard on legislation. I particularly wanted to thank Water and Power Subcommittee staff members Kiel Weaver, Lane Dickson, and Michael Correia for there work on this bill. I also wanted to thank Nate Gentry, who works on Senator DOMENICI's Energy and Natural Resources staff, and was instrumental in helping draft this important piece of legislation. I also wanted to thank New Mexico Interstate Stream Commissioner Estaban Lopez who made the trip to Washington D.C. to testify in support of this legislation before the House Resources Subcommittee on Water and New Mexico and State Engineer John DAntonio who testified on the Senate companion legislation in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. They both do an excellent job overseeing and managing New Mexico most precious natural resource—water. I also want to thank Office of the State Engineer General Counsel DL Sanders and Interstate Stream Commission General Counsel Tanya Trujillo for their work on this legislation.

I am very pleased that the legislation is going to be voted on by the full House of Representatives so that this legislation can come one step closer to becoming law and New Mexico can come one step closer to getting much needed federal assistance with its water planning efforts.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1711, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5160) to establish the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5160

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Long Island Sound Stewardship Act of 2006”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Long Island Sound is a national treasure of great cultural, environmental, and ecological importance;

(2) 8,000,000 people live within the Long Island Sound watershed and 28,000,000 people (approximately 10 percent of the population of the United States) live within 50 miles of Long Island Sound;

(3) activities that depend on the environmental health of Long Island Sound contribute more than \$5,000,000,000 each year to the regional economy;

(4) the portion of the shoreline of Long Island Sound that is accessible to the general public (estimated at less than 20 percent of the total shoreline) is not adequate to serve the needs of the people living in the area;

(5) existing shoreline facilities are in many cases overburdened and underfunded;

(6) large parcels of open space already in public ownership are strained by the effort to balance the demand for recreation with the needs of sensitive natural resources;

(7) approximately 1/3 of the tidal marshes of Long Island Sound have been filled, and much of the remaining marshes have been ditched, diked, or impounded, reducing the ecological value of the marshes; and

(8) much of the remaining exemplary natural landscape is vulnerable to further development.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative to identify, protect, and enhance upland sites within the Long Island Sound ecosystem with significant ecological, educational, open space, public access, or recreational value through a bi-State network of sites best exemplifying these values.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advisory Committee” means the Long Island Sound Stewardship Advisory Committee established by section 8.

(3) REGION.—The term “Region” means the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative Region established by section 4(a).

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the States of Connecticut and New York.

(5) STEWARDSHIP.—The term “stewardship” means land acquisition, land conservation agreements, site planning, plan implementation, land and habitat management, public access improvements, site monitoring, and other activities designed to enhance and preserve natural resource-based recreation and ecological function of upland areas.

(6) STEWARDSHIP SITE.—The term “stewardship site” means any area of State, local, or tribal government, or privately owned land within the Region that is designated by the Administrator under section 5(a).

(7) SYSTEMATIC SITE SELECTION.—The term “systematic site selection” means a process of selecting stewardship sites that—

(A) has explicit goals, methods, and criteria;

(B) produces feasible, repeatable, and defensible results;